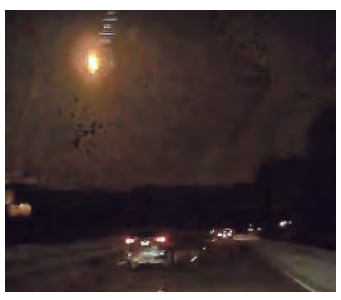
Was it a meteor ... or something else?



A dash-cam view. MIKE AUSTIN

Robert Allen Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It sounded like thunder with a flash of light, shaking homes at about 8:15 p.m. Tuesday across metro Detroit. But experts say this wasn't lightning.

"It looks like from videos and reports we've gotten (that it's a) meteor," said Jordan Dale, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in White Lake. "However, we cannot confirm it's a meteor. At this point, we're just sticking to what we know — and it was not thunder or lightning or weather-related."

The weather service by about 9 p.m. had already received dozens of reports, ranging from Flint to Toledo.

Multiple images were posted of night skies being lit up, as social media exploded with people reporting what they saw or heard.

See METEOR, Page 6A

HURRY! Limited Time Offer!
BUY 1 GET 1 50%* OFF ON CUSTOM BLINDS, SHADES AND DRAPES
FREE In-Home Design Consultation NO OBLIGATION
Call To Schedule (866) 942-7340
3DAYBLINDS® YOU'LL LOVE THE TREATMENT
*This offer must be presented at the time of purchase. Offer valid on 3 Day Blinds brand products only. Buy 1 window covering and receive the 2nd one of equal or lesser value at 50% off! Offer excludes Shutters, Special Orders, installation, sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid on previous purchases or with any other offer or discount. **Offer Code BGXB.** 3 Day Blinds holds the following licenses: AZ ROC 264398, CA #1005986, CT HIC.0644950, MA #184680, NJ #13VH09390200, OR #209181, PA #PA107656, Rockland County #H-12401-34-00-00, WA #3DAYBDB842KS. © 2017 3 Day Blinds LLC.

ON GUARD FOR 186 YEARS
Detroit Free Press
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 ▫ FREEP.COM
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Victims: Our lives changed forever

Nassar hearing begins with emotional statements

Matt Mencarini Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

LANSING – Their remarks are both brutal and triumphant.

On the first day of Larry Nassar's four-day sentencing hearing, 29 women and girls spoke, sharing their pain and anguish after being sexually abused by the former MSU and USA Gymnastics doctor.

They included Kyle Stephens, the woman Nassar pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting in his home when she was a child visiting with her parents.

"Perhaps you have figured it out by now," she said, addressing Nassar directly as he looked down, covering his eyes with his hand. "Little girls don't stay little forever. They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world."

All 125 women and girls who filed reports about Nassar with police were given the

See NASSAR, Page 6A

Larry Nassar covers his eyes during the first day of his sentencing hearing.
MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

PROVIDING SANCTUARY

Immigrant to move into Detroit church

Flora Rranxburgaj breaks down as she talks about how she needs the help of her husband and cannot do without him if he gets deported. ROMAIN BLANQUART/DFP

Albanian native says he's facing deportation and his wife has MS; church says it has calling from 'higher law'

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Saying they answer to a higher law, Central United Methodist Church, a historic Protestant congregation in Detroit, said Tuesday that it is taking in an undocumented Albanian immigrant whom the U.S. government wants to deport next week.

It's the first time a church in metro Detroit has announced that it is taking in an immigrant wanted by ICE for deportation since President Donald Trump took office, advocates say.

Last year, Central United, which sits next to Comerica Park, declared it was a sanctuary congregation open to those seeking refuge. That notion will be put to the test Jan. 25 when Ded Rranxburgaj, 48, of Southgate is scheduled to be removed and sent back to his native Albania.

ICE has what is called a "sensitive locations" policy that advises agents not to target houses of worship and schools. ICE's website states: "Enforcement actions may occur at sensitive locations in limited circumstances, but will generally be avoided."

See IMMIGRANT, Page 7A

▫ Trump report aims to underscore threat posed by immigration. **Nation+World, 3A**
▫ Riley: Model husband and dad wasn't deported, he was sentenced. **Metro, 4A**

DETROIT AUTO SHOW

New IndyCar design will put drivers to test SPORTS, 1B

U.S. auto buyers: the bigger the better

Engineers boost size without compromising fuel economy

Nathan Bomey and Chris Woodyard
USA TODAY

They're called "compacts," but when it comes to size, some small sedans are starting to defy the label. And "full-size" no longer seems like an adequate description for big pickups.

How about "beast-size?"

This much is clear at the 2018 North American International Auto Show going on here this week: Passenger cars, crossovers and pickups are rapidly growing in size amid cheap gas and Americans' preferences for big, roomy highway cruisers.

"At this show, bigger is better," said Jessica Caldwell, analyst for car-buying website Edmunds.com.

And it's no surprise.

"Given our druthers, we'd pick big cars," she added.

But unlike past years, jumboizing vehicles doesn't mean compromising fuel economy or maneuverability. Engineers are using lightweight materials and improved engines to boost gas mileage, interior room and cargo space.

See BIG CARS, Page 7A

Dearborn utility wants big boost in its air pollutants

Keith Matheny and Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A utility company that supplies electricity and steam to industrial customers in Dearborn wants to expand its capability and, in the process, add well more than a thousand tons of air pollutants to the skies there.

Dearborn Industrial Generation (DIG) is proposing to add a new natural gas-powered turbine for peak power demands at its power plant on Miller Road across from the Ford River Rouge Complex.

But that would increase emissions of air pollutants in a big way — carbon monoxide by as much as 913 additional tons per year; nitrogen oxides by up to 416 tons per year, and more, according to a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality staff report on the DIG request.

It's happening in Dearborn, where asthma rates are already twice the state average,

See POLLUTE, Page 5A

▫ **At freep.com:** Jeep introduced an updated 2019 Cherokee with a new powertrain, updated looks and increased cargo space.

Daily $1.50
Volume 187 | No. 258 ©2018
Home delivery pricing inside
Subscribe: 800-395-3300
Classified: 586-977-7500; 800-926-8237

Weather
High 27° ▫ Low 17°
Some sun, cold. Forecast, **2A**

Inside today's Free Press

▫ Obituaries 8-9A
▫ Classified.....13A
▫ Puzzles 4-5C
▫ Comics 6C

USA TODAY
Facebook photos show a large, smiling family. A stark contrast to what authorities found. **2A**

CUSTOM BLINDS, SHADES, SHUTTERS & DRAPES
HURRY! Limited Time Offer!
BUY 1 GET 1 50%* OFF ON CUSTOM BLINDS, SHADES AND DRAPES
SINCE 1978 houzz BBB AS SEEN ON TV HGTV A&E
Call To Schedule (866) 942-7340
WE BRING THE SHOWROOM TO YOU!
3DAYBLINDS® YOU'LL LOVE THE TREATMENT
*This offer must be presented at the time of purchase. Offer valid on 3 Day Blinds brand products only. Buy 1 window covering and receive the 2nd one of equal or lesser value at 50% off! Offer excludes Shutters, Special Orders, installation, sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid on previous purchases or with any other offer or discount. **Offer Code BGXB.** 3 Day Blinds holds the following licenses: AZ ROC 264398, CA #1005986, CT HIC.0644950, MA #184680, NJ #13VH09390200, OR #209181, PA #PA107656, Rockland County #H-12401-34-00-00, WA #3DAYBDB842KS. © 2017 3 Day Blinds LLC.